

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB 17 1. A motion vector prediction method capable of decoding backwards, comprising the steps of:

(a) calculating motion vectors of macro blocks; and

(b) predicting motion vectors of macro blocks each having one motion vector while moving to another macro block from left to right, and motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors continuously in a predetermined sequence to have correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors.

2. The motion vector prediction method of claim 1, wherein in the step (b) when one macro block has one motion vector, the motion vector prediction of the current block is performed using the motion vector of the macro block on the left of the current block or the previous coded macro block.

SUB 2 3. The motion vector prediction method of claim 2, wherein in the step (b) when one macro block has four motion vectors, the motion vectors are continuously predicted from the motion vectors of the upper-left, lower-left, lower-right and upper-right subblocks in sequence.